

has been seeking employment for a long time. He said:

I have gone through a lot of health situations since being home—

Meaning since being home after losing his job.

constantly worrying will I get a job, is there going to be enough money, or when are my benefits going to be cutoff. . . . The worries are overpowering and devastating.

A lot of these letters we are getting speak in those terms. This isn't a mechanical thing or a question about a program or whether the Senate will do this or that; this is about whether Frank, in this instance, who lives in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, is going to be able to have enough money to provide for his family. So this is about worry and emotion and about real anxiety that people feel in the midst of the most horrific recession since the 1930s. This isn't some far off remote problem; this is real life for someone such as Frank. Then he goes on from there to say:

My ex-wife came home from work to advise me and our children that she will be losing her job on August 6, 2010, due to her company outsourcing [the work of that company] to India. She was employed there for 21 years. She carries our medical insurance and 80 percent of our income. We have a 12-year-old [child] with Cystic Fibrosis, which is a fatal disease, and this precious child will be without [health] insurance that pays for the very medicine that keeps her alive.

He goes on from there in his letter. I will end the quote with that line about his daughter with cystic fibrosis. So this isn't just about paying the light bill or paying the mortgage or making ends meet in a general way; this is about whether this family can provide health insurance for a 12-year-old with cystic fibrosis. That is what we are talking about, in many instances. We are talking about health care. When you lose your job, unfortunately, the direct impact isn't just on income; it is about whether you have health insurance. That is Frank's story in Pennsylvania.

I will give one more example because we are short on time.

Rachel, from Pennsylvania, writes to us in an e-mail. She says this:

I am writing for my husband.

Sometimes a person who loses a job is too embarrassed to write or doesn't want to express the feelings that are tearing them apart inside. They don't want to write down on paper the anxiety they are living with—the horror of not having enough to provide for your family. She is writing for her husband, saying he was laid off from his job as a GPS operator. She said the best way to take care of his family, he thought at that point, was to become an airman in the National Guard. He enlisted this year, and he entered the program for the Air National Guard. He excelled in the program, but he couldn't proceed to basic training because he needs dental work. Rachel and her husband, similar to so many others, have no health and dental insurance.

She says—and this is direct quotation from the letter:

I am doing everything I can, including working 2 jobs, to keep us above water, and we are drowning at a speed I never imagined. I bring home \$700 a month, which doesn't cover our rent, let alone car insurance, groceries, the electric bill, et cetera. We do not want to live extravagantly. We just want to live.

That is what Rachel says about her situation because of the loss of a job that her husband had to experience. He is becoming an airman in the National Guard to try to make ends meet. I could go on, but I will not because we don't have the time.

That is what this is about. This isn't a theoretical issue or some government program over here that none of us fully understands. This is about real lives, providing health insurance for families, making ends meet, and basic dignity that people feel robbed of because they lost their job, and some people in Washington don't want to lift a finger to help them. It doesn't take much to say aye when your name is called to vote for an extension of unemployment insurance. That is what the program is for. It is for emergencies, when people's lives are at risk—at least the life of their family to be able to make ends meet. That is what we are talking about. That is why I urge every Member of the Senate not to vote for your own political priorities but to vote for Frank and Rachel in Pennsylvania, who have written to us, and people similar to them all across this country. I think we are going to finally get an affirmative vote, but it is long overdue. With that, I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:30 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. BEGICH).

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate a certificate of appointment to fill the vacancy created by the death of the late Senator Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia. The certificate, the Chair is advised, is in the form suggested by the Senate.

If there be no objection, the reading of the certificate will be waived, and it will be printed in full in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the certificate was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

Office of the Executive

Joe Manchin III

Governor

CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that, pursuant to the power vested in me by the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the State of West Virginia, I Joe Manchin III, the Governor of said State, do hereby appoint Carte Patrick Goodwin a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States until the vacancy therein caused by the death of Robert C. Byrd, is filled by election as provided by law.

Witness: His excellency our Governor Joe Manchin III, and our seal hereto affixed at Charleston, West Virginia this the Sixteenth day of July in the year of our Lord 2010.

By the Governor:

JOE MANCHIN III,

Governor.

NATALIE E. TENNANT,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

The VICE PRESIDENT. If the Senator-designate will now present himself to the desk, the Chair will administer the oath of office.

Mr. GOODWIN, escorted by Mr. ROCKEFELLER, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to him by the Vice President; and he subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations, Senator.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BEGICH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

AMERICAN JOBS AND CLOSING TAX LOOPHOLES ACT OF 2010

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the House message to accompany H.R. 4213, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

House message to accompany H.R. 4213, an act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Reid motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate